

[Mrs. Eleanor Ervin]

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Range-lore

Nellie B. Cox

San Angelo, Texas.

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RANGE-LORE

Mrs. Eleanor Ervin who came to [San Angelo?] in 1886, is 96 years old and until about two years ago was (as she expressed) sprier than most girls now.

She says: "I was born in Missouri and when I was about six years old, my father brought us to Limestone County, Texas. Yes, that was a long time ago. I can't remember it much except that there were Indians everywhere. My mother stayed scared all the time. My father was friendly with some Indians and they would bring us children beads and trinkets of all kinds and also fresh meat. C.12 - 2/11/41 - Texas 2 One time 500 Indians passed our house after they had burned a small settlement and killed the settlers. We had been warned and hid out. Mother was worse scared after that so father moved us to Mississippi. I married my first husband there. I got word that he was sick at a commissary during the Civil War, so I took my oldest boy and started to him. A neighbor took us in a wagon. It was so muddy we bogged down and then had to ferry across a river." (Here the daughter, herself an old woman, interrupted to remind her mother of something). "Now, daughter, you don't remember like I do. You weren't there. I can't remember the name of the river. It wasn't the Mississippi River. I got to my husband anyhow and he got well, but he didn't live many years.

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"After Mr. Ervin and I had been married a few years we moved by wagons to Uvalde, Texas. Indians were there, too, but about all they did was to steal horses on moonlight nights. My husband and son would take the other children and spend the night in the corn patch. The Indians could have found us, but they never did. We sold our goats and other stuff to Nub Pulliam's brother-in-law. My husband knew Mr. Pulliam far back. He (Mr. Ervin) attended the wedding of Mr. Pulliam and his first wife- Mary Holmes, I think was the girl's name. 3 "After selling out, we came to the Concho Country, first to Ben Ficklin and later to San Angelo. We have lived at Knickerbocker, Sonora and other places around in this country.

"Tom Ketchum was a good boy. He got off with bad company. I knew all the boys. I heard Sam say that all he wanted was a horse branded S.L.S. I don't know why. Tom always did things for poor people, gave them what he could. Yes, he might have been a kind of Robin Hood. I knew a girl in this country who joined up with a gang of desperadoes. When she was growing up she was pert and different to most girls of that time, but she learned to shoot, first with one hand and then with the other hand. She helped her bunch in robberies and was finally caught, convicted and sent to the "Pen". She was real smart.

"I remember when Will Carber was killed and another man caught at Sonora who were thought to be trying to rob a bank. That wasn't so many years ago.

"If my memory wasn't so bad I could tell a great deal more." Range-lore

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mrs. Eleanor Ervin, 216 [E?]. 11th Street, San Angelo, Texas, interviewed January [5?], 1938.